

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 9071

AMEMBASSY ANKARA FLASH

S E C R E T NICOSIA 1744

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR CY GR TU US UN

SUBJ: TURKISH PLAN ATTACK AIRPORT; MILITARY REINFORCEMENTS

REF: NOCISIA CRITIC #1 AND #2,

#1 QUOTE --WECKMANN HAS TOLD EMBASSY THAT IF TURKS ATTEMPT TO

STORM AIRPORT, UNFICYP WILL RESIST. DAO HAS SEPARATELY
GOTTEN SAME MESSAGE FROM UNFICYP. WE ARE TOLD THAT
THERE ARE SEVERAL NATIONALITIES REPRESENTED IN FORCE
WHICH TURKS PREPARING TO ATTACK.

URGENTLY RECOMMEND THAT WASHINGTON INSTRUCT ANKARA EMBASSY
TO REACH TURKISH GOVERNMENT AT TOP CIVILIAN AND MILITARY
LEVELS WITH INFORMATION GIVEN IN PREVIOUS CRITIC MESSAGE,
AND TO UNDERLINE THAT TURKS ARE PREPARING TO KILL TROOPS OF
THEIR ALLIES ORGANIZED IN UNFICYP.

#2 QUOTE-- TURKISH AMBASSADOR AS OF 2000 LOCAL CONTINUES TO INSIST
HE HAS ORDERS FROM HIS GOVT TO CONDUCT MILITARY OCCUPATION
OF AIRPORT.

I READ TO HIM QUOTES OF ECEVIT STATEMENT TO MACOMBER, AND SAID I
WOULD INFORM MY GOVT AND THROUGH MACOMBER HIS GOVT THAT HE WAS
ADVISED OF THIS POSITION BY US EMBASSY AS OF 2000.

FROM UNFICYP OBSERVER ON GROUND, WE ARE TOLD TWO NEW TURKISH
DIVISIONS LANDING. TURKS EXPANDING AREA OF CONTROL EAST AND

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WEST FROM KYRENIA.

1. EMBASSY INFORMED BY UNFICYP (MILES)
AT 1940 LOCAL THAT TURK AMB INHAN HAD OFFICIALLY TOLD
UNFICYP FORCE COMMANDER THAT TURKISH MILITARY WOULD OCCUPY NICOSIA
AIRPORT TONIGHT.

I CALLED INHAN TO CONFIRM. INHAN SAID THERE WAS "NUANCE":
TURKISH FORCES WOULD NOT ATTACK; THEY WOULD CONDUCT
"MILITARY OCCUPATION". UNFICYP WOULD CONTROL ONE SIDE OF
AIRPORT, TURKS THE OTHER.

2. I TOLD INHAM THAT I FOUND THIS INFORMATION INCREDIBLE.
IF TRUE, IT WOULD UNDERMINE ALL THAT MY GOVERNMENT HAD TRIED NO
ACCOMPLISH DURING PAST THREE DAYS. I EMPHASIZED THAT MY
GOVERNMENT WOULD BE UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND THIS ACTION BY
GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY. I SAID THAT I WAS PERSONALLY APPALLED.

3. I THEN READ TO INHAN THE ASSURANCES GIVEN AMBASSADOR
MACOMBER BY PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT TO EFFECT THAT ATTACK
"ABSURD" AND ABSOLUTELY "OUT OF THE QUESTION." I QUOTED TO INHAN
ECEVIT'S ASSURANCE THAT STRICT ORDERS HAD BEEN SENT TO
TURKISH COMMANDERS ON THE GROUND. I TOLD INHAN THAT I WAS
PLACING HIM ON NOTICE THAT I WOULD INFORM MY GOVERNMENT AND
HIS THAT I HAD PASSED TO HIM PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT'S ASSURANCES
AT 2000 LOCAL. (ANKARA 5896).

4. INHAN CLAIMED TO BE TOTALLY UNAWARE OF THESE
INSTRUCTIONS. SAID HE WAS UNDER ORDERS HIS GOVERNMENT TO
PROCEED WITH AIRPORT OCCUPATION. UNTIL THOSE ORDERS
CHANGED, OPERATION WOULD GO FORWARD. HE AGREED PASS MY DEMARCHE
TO ANKARA.

5. WE HAVE PASSED GIST OF INHAN CONVERSATION TO UNFICYP, TOGETHER
WITH OUR UNDERSTANDING OF ECEVIT'S UNDERTAKING.

6. IF TURKS ATTACK, THEY WILL BE OPPOSED BY FORCE COMPOSED
OF MIXTURE ALL UNFICYP CONTINGENTS. UNFICYP UNDER
INSTRUCTIONS FIGHT. ADDITIONALLY, WE UNDERSTAND RAF PREPARED
INTERVENE IN SUPPORT OF UNIFCYP.

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7. SEPARATELY, UNFICYP OFFICER ON NORTH SHORE TELLS US TURKS
HAVE LANDED TWO ADDITIONAL DIVISIONS TODAY.
LANDINGS STILL GOING ON. FORCES REPORTEDLY HEADING EAST AND
WEST. WE UNDERSTAND THEY ACCOMPANIED BY ARMOR.

8. ABOVE SUGGESTS TURKS HAVE ABANDONED MINIMUM OBJECTIVES
WE THOUGHT THEY TRYING ACHIEVE. MOVE ON AIRPORT AND
AUGMENTED GROUND FORCES INDICATE TURKISH TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS

MAY NOW EXCEED LIMITED AREA SEIZED THUS FAR.

9. CONFERRED WITH UKHICOM AT 2100 WHO INFORMS UK MAKING "MODEST CONTRIBUTION" TO BOLSTER PREM CHAN'S CAPABILITIES. (PRESUMABLY RAF SUPPORT PARA 6.)

10. THERE IS NOTHING MORE WE (US,UK, UNFYCYP) CAN DO HERE TO AVERT POSSIBLE CLASH. ANSWER LIES WITH TGS AND IN WHAT PRESSURES CAN BE BROUGHT TO BEAR.

11. DESPITE ABOVE CONCLUSION, INFORMED AT 2125 THAT WECKMANN AND PREM CHAN BUSSING NEWSPAPER AND TV CORRESPONDENTS TO UNFYCYP HQ ADJACENT AIRPORT TO WITNESS DEVELOPMENTS. THIS MAY BE POSSIBLE DETERRENT.
DAVIES

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION AND COPY REQUIREMENT PER S/S-O,
R. ELTZ.

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